

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

5 Applicant(s): Tetsunusuke Fujisaki
Docket No.: YO999-527
Serial No.: 09/710,999
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Group: 3605
10 Examiner: Narayanswamy Subramanian
Title: Method and Apparatus for Network Marketing of Financial Securities

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INTERVIEW AGENDA

Examiner Narayanswamy Subramanian
Commissioner for Patents
20 P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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Transmitted herewith is a summary of points to be discussed during our
telephonic interview on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 2 PM.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Proposed amendment.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing transactions involving financial securities in a secondary market, said method comprising the steps of:
providing a system wherein said system comprises a memory device, at least one hardware processor device coupled to said memory device, and a software module loadable into said memory device and executable on said at least one hardware processor device;

establishing a plurality of market segments in said secondary market, each of said market segments having at least one market participant;

receiving a bid for one or more financial securities, said bid including one or more authorized market segments;

dividing said bid into a plurality of divided bids;

posting each of said divided bids to one or more of said authorized market segments; and

comparing said each posted divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in proximity to each divided said-received bid; and

posting said bid only to said one or more authorized market segments wherein at least one of said steps is performed by a processor.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of preventing said bid from being posted to market participants not in said one or more authorized market segments.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing a communication channel between entities associated with two bids that are in proximity.

8. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein two bids are in proximity if they have parameters that are within a given threshold of each other.

6.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A system for processing transactions involving financial securities in a secondary market, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured

to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

establish a plurality of market segments in said secondary market, each of said market segments having at least one market participant;

receive a bid for one or more financial securities, said bid including one or more authorized market segments;

divide said bid into a plurality of divided bids;

post each of said divided bids to one or more of said authorized market segments; and

compare said each posted divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in proximity to each divided said-received bid; and

post said bid only to said one or more authorized market segments.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said processor is further configured to prevent said bid from being posted to market participants not in said one or more authorized market segments.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said processor is further configured to establish a communication channel between entities associated with two bids that are in proximity.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein two bids are in proximity if they have parameters that are within a given threshold of each other.

22.-31. (Cancelled)

5 32. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture processing transactions involving financial securities in a secondary market, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

10 a step to establish a plurality of market segments in said secondary market, each of said market segments having at least one market participant;

a step to receive a bid for one or more financial securities, said bid including one or more authorized market segments;

a step to divide said bid into a plurality of divided bids;

15 a step to post each of said divided bids to one or more of said authorized market segments; and

a step to compare said each posted divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in proximity to each divided said-received bid; and

20 ~~a step to post said bid only to said one or more authorized market segments.~~

33.-35. (Cancelled)

AGENDA

Point 1: Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts that it is unclear which of the steps of the claim are performed by a processor. Regarding claims 1, 17, and 32, the Examiner asserts that it is not clear as to what is the relationship between the comparing step and the posting step. The Examiner asks if the posting is performed independently and regardless of the outcome of the comparing step, or is the posting based on the outcome of the comparing step.

Applicant notes that the steps of the claim that are performed by a processor is a design choice, as would be apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants also note that independent claims 1, 17, and 32 have been amended to require posting each of said divided bids to one or more of said authorized market segments; and comparing each posted divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in proximity to each divided bid. Thus, the claims, as amended, clearly define the relationship between the posting and comparing steps.

Applicant respectfully requests that the section 112 rejections be withdrawn.

Point 2: Independent Claims 1, 17 and 31

Independent claims 1, 17, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Woolston in view of Silverman et al. and further in view of Gary. Regarding claims 1, 17, and 32, the Examiner asserts that Woolston discloses receiving a bid for one or more goods, said bid including one or more authorized market segments (claim 35).

Applicant notes that independent claims 1, 17, and 35 have been amended to require dividing said bid into a plurality of divided bids; posting each of said divided bids to one or more of said authorized market segments; and comparing each posted

divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in proximity to each divided bid. None of the cited references disclose or suggest dividing a bid into a plurality of divided bids; posting each of the divided bids to one or more authorized market segments; and comparing each
5 *posted divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of the authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in proximity to each divided bid.*

Thus, Woolston, Silverman, and Gary, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest dividing said bid into a plurality of divided bids; posting each of said divided bids to one or more of said authorized market segments; and comparing each
10 *posted divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in proximity to each divided bid, as required by independent claims 1, 17, and 32, as amended.*